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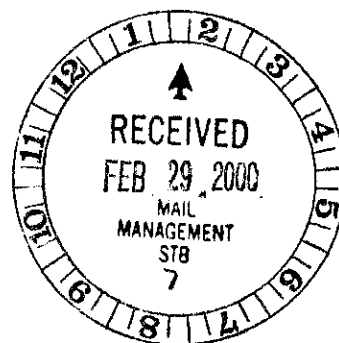
DAKERYN INDUSTRIES LTD.

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February 18, 2000

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Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582.

Dear Sir:

Dakeryn Industries Ltd. is a private employee owned Wholesale Lumber company that critically relies upon rail service in Canada and from Canada to U.S. markets.

We wish to comment on the facts to be discussed March 8th, 2000 in ex parte 582.

We urge the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN - BNSF combination is good for shippers and not on potential downstream effects. The CN - BNSF marriage should be judged objectively on its merits. If other carriers propose mergers, then and only then should these cases be examined on their merits.

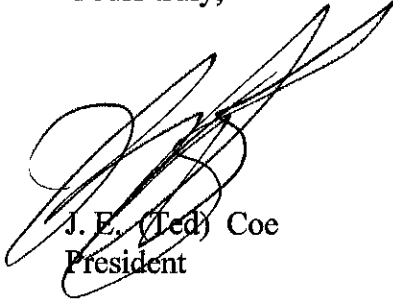
Our major concern is cost effect service. Timing of the proposed CN - BNSF amalgamation is not the issue.

Other mergers have to varying degrees failed on service and surely not on timing. We feel that the Surface Transportation Board should foremost focus on service relative to the CN - BNSF combination.

The Surface Transportation Board has a comprehensive process to evaluate railroad transactions and to protect the overall public interests. It should use this process to fairly evaluate the CN - BNSF combination.

We respectfully inject that the Boards role is not to protect other railways, but rather to protect the position of shippers.

Yours truly,



J. E. (Ted) Coe
President